Appointment of Trustees of Pension Fund under Bank Employees Pension Regulations, 1995

*197. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks have been authorised to appoint trustees of pension fund under the Bank Employees Pension Regulations, 1995;

(b) whether only the representatives of employees/officers' organisations are appointed on the Board of such trusts by the respective banks ignoring the representations/claims of bank pensioners who have more stake in the trusts;

(c) whether Government have examined these issues in broader perspective keeping in view the interest of bank pensioners as a whole; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government and instructions issued to all the public sector banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that as per provisions contained in Regulation 8 of the Bank (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995, the powers to appoint the trustees are vested with the bank. A member of the fund can be appointed as trustees of the fund. As per model pension fund rules circulated by Indian Banks' Association to the banks, a 'member' shall mean "an employee who has been admitted to the membership of the fund and who is governed by the pension regulations and shall include any such person only so long as he is entitled to the benefits from the pension fund." IBA has further reported that pensioners and beneficiaries of family pension are also eligible for appointment as Trustees of the Pension Fund.

Shortage of Currency Notes/Coins in the Market

*198. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortage of small denomoination currency notes and coins in the market;

(b) what action has been taken to prevent such shortages and to ensure availability of currency notes and coins;

(c) whether Government are aware that inspite of declaring blackmarketing/hoarding/exchange of notes on commission basis as an offence, these malpratices are prevalent in front of every RBI buildings in the country; and

(d) what remedial measures are being taken to prevent such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF FIANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The lower denomination notes of Rs. 1/-; Rs. 2/-; and Rs. 5/- have been coinised and the capacity so released has been diverted for production of higher demononination notes. Therefore, printing of these notes has been stoped (Rs. 1- from September, 1994; Rs. 2/- from January, 1995; and Rs. 5/- from November, 1995). The shortage of coins of these denomination is due to limited production capacity at India Government Mints.

(b) With a view to imporving supply of currency notes/coins, Government has taken various steps like(i) modernisation of existing two note printing presses at Nasik and Dewas; (ii) setting up of two more note printing presses under the direct control of Reserve Bank of India (i.e., one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal); (ii) modernisation of India Government Mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai; (iv) complete coinisation of Rs. 1/-; Rs. 2/-; and Rs. 5/-and diversion of the capacity for printing of higher denomination notes; and (v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs. 1,00,000 crores) and 1000 million pieces